

Presently, a great amount of concern exists between BLM and Lincoln County fire departments. Lincoln County fire departments feel that their department is not being utilized according to the Mutual Aid Agreement, and BLM still has a lot of safety concerns with training levels of county volunteers and equipment dependability.

4.9b Recommendation: If no consideration is given to incorporating Lincoln County's open areas without fire protection or placement of a satellite station in the general vicinity, then a Mutual Aid Agreement may improve upon the existing situation of no fire protection.

Concerns over existing mutual aid agreements need to be addressed at the annual agreement update meeting. Each agency (BLM and FPD) need to air their concerns, agree upon a solution, and strive to overcome the weakness, and increase the effectiveness of the mutual aid agreements.

5.0 Public Education/Prevention

5.1 Education

5.1a Condition: Throughout the needs analysis and public outreach process, it is evident that most citizens and private landowners in Lincoln County are very interested, and need further education in fire-wise home practices and wildfire prevention efforts.

5.1b Recommendation: Community education efforts needs to be expanded into the urban areas. Prevention training should be implemented and orientated around FIREWISE – A Community-wide Outreach Program (Appendix B).

5.2 Prevention

5.2a Condition: Prevention efforts are limited throughout Lincoln County. Each FPD has on going prevention activities, with emphasis on urban populations only.

5.2b Recommendation: Increase prevention efforts to include rural areas of the county. Prevention training should be implemented and orientated towards the benefits of creating and maintaining Defensible Space and Survivable Space around homes and structures. (Appendix B)

Develop and maintain evacuation plans for all subdivisions, farms, ranches, recreational areas and the cities in cooperation with disaster, emergency, and police personnel.

5.3 Code Enforcement

5.3a Condition: Lincoln County has adopted some NFPA building codes covering subdivision development, however the rural areas have homes and structures in many cases predate existing regulations. These parcels are not part of a legal subdivision and may have different regulations covering their future development.

Adequate support for enforcement of the National Fire Code is lacking, and county FPD's are being approached to sign off on subdivision plans without proper consideration for water, emergency equipment access and egress, and adequate turn around space.

Fire chiefs are not getting the necessary support from the county level with enforcement of the National Fire Code, and Planning and Zoning requirements.

5.3b Recommendation: More enforcement and streamlining of local building and fire codes are necessary. Efforts should be undertaken to strengthen and streamline code enforcement in the planning process. An independent review panel should be selected /appointed to review and identify the present situation and make recommendations to county officials. Nations standards for code enforcement, Definitions, and Pertinent Standards are included in Appendix C.

Table 6. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code Enforcement Element

Condition	Recommendation
Fire issues and safety concerns associated with new subdivision development are due to lack of enforcement.	County should consider adopting all, or portions of the 2003 NFPA 1141 Standard for Fire Protection in Planned Building Groups. (See Appendix C)
Many rural homes and subdivisions predate adopted code requirements	County should adopt all, or portions of, 2003 NFPA 1143 Standard for Wildland Fire Management. (See Appendix C)
Standard fire code requirements for new developments are not being included building permit approval process	County should adopt all, or portions of, 2002 NFPA 1144 Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire. (See Appendix C)
Fire Chiefs and Fire Commissioners are not being included in the preliminary process for "plat approval" before building permit is issued	Fire Districts should meet and discuss the current system of building permit review and identify problems that exist and recommend solutions for implementation
A great deal of concern exists about support, or the lack thereof at the county level, when it comes to code enforcement	

5.4 Unprotected (open) Areas

5.4a Condition: The majority of landowners in the four (4) major unprotected (open) areas is not included within a fire protection district and has no fire protection.

5.4b Recommendation:

5.5 Grant Writing

5.5a Condition: Throughout the Need and Assessment process nearly every emergency response department in Lincoln County expressed the need for proper training and efficient grant writing.

5.5b Recommendation: Lincoln County needs to develop grant-writing support. Many Federal and State agencies including FEMA, National Securities and RC&D hire Grant Writers to accept and process grant applications, and provide opportunities for training in proper application techniques as well. Appendix E.

5.6 Fuels Reduction

5.6a Condition: Approximately fifty five (55) miles of major roads throughout Lincoln County need additional maintenance to prevent wildfire from spreading to adjoining cropland, rural home sites, or entering public lands. Also, many private homes in the rural areas not only need increased education for defensible and survivable space, but have many fuel reduction needs as well.

5.6b Recommendation: Due to the rural nature of the majority of Lincoln County, fuels treatment programs are one of the most effective wildfire preventive measures that can be undertaken. Because roadways naturally serve as fuel breaks, fuels treatment or mowing alongside roads are recommended throughout the County. To be effective, treatments should not only include ROW's, but also extend one hundred fifty (150) feet into adjoining private or federal land. An additional 550 acres of fuel reduction needs on private land and adjoining public lands have been identified. (Tables 9-11) Cost estimates for fuel reduction needs are included in Appendix D.

5.7 Plan Implementation/Maintenance

5.7a Condition: In 2001 a Risk Mitigation Plan was written for the Shoshone City and Rural Fire Department, and the Richfield and Dietrich Fire Department's were involved in the Risk Planning process during 2002 and 2003. Presently all three (3) Lincoln County FPD's have approved Risk Mitigation Plans that have not been implemented, do in part to environmental and funding requirements.

5.7b Recommendation: Implement Lincoln County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan upon approval and ensure it is maintained annually and updated every five (5) years.

Table 7. Summary of Conditions and Recommendations for Lincoln County

Objective	Condition	Recommendation	Budget	Priority
Infrastructure Improvement				
Radio Communications	All county emergency response agencies have communication problems. Most departments have inferior quality radios and Lincoln County has several "dead spots" where communication is impossible or sporadic at best	Pursue appropriate funding for a P-25 Radio System by 2006. Seek shared services repeater site or creation of Lincoln County repeater site.	Appendix D	High

Objective	Condition	Recommendation	Budget	Priority
Water Refill Stations	Seasonal water sources (canals) shut down for the year and no longer available during the fire season.	Pursue year around, dedicated water sources, written agreement for access to wells or water lines, Install dry hydrants and cisterns in critical areas	“	High
Facilities	Major county facility needs include: Three (3) new fire stations; major upgrade of two (2) fire stations, and a emergency command center for FEMA	Pursue appropriate funding (county) and grant applications (Fire Chiefs) for replacement, upgrade, and new stations	“	High
Equipment	Much of the suppression equipment (structural and wildland) throughout the county is inefficient. Most are old, outdated, costly to maintain and repair, and after ten (10) years, very difficult to purchase replacement parts for.	Initiate and provide funding in support of ten (10) year replacement/rotation cycle for all emergency suppression equipment, provide adequate “grant application training” (County) to pursue matching grant applications with FEMA and NFMA (Fire Chiefs)	“	High
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), extraction tools	None of the FPD’s has complete sets of PPE (structural and wildland) to ensure firefighter safety. Available PPE and extraction gear are most often “hand me downs”, and worn beyond repair or functional use.	Provide appropriate funding for necessary safety items, and basic extraction tools for all county emergency response agencies. Every emergency response vehicle should have the basic set of extraction tools	“	High
Training	Adequate training for upward mobility and maintaining an effective training cadre is available, but costly. The necessary advanced training courses for upward mobility of volunteers are out of town and out of state	Provide appropriate funding for basic and advanced fire training (structural and wildland), ten (10) year program. Initiate and support policy of paying volunteer firefighters to attend annual training sessions	Appendix D	High
Limited Bridge Weights	Assessments identified three (3) bridges in the county system in need of major repair or replacement. (Shoshone FPD (2 sites), (Dietrich FPD (1 site).	Pursue appropriate funding for adequate repair, replacement, and support of annual state inspections.	“	High
Roads	Assessments identified narrow, single lane roads with inadequate turn around space throughout the county. Adequate turn around space becoming a major problem in new sub divisions	Review, update, enforce subdivision codes to ensure preliminary subdivision plats include requirements to meet International Fire Code	“	Mod

Objective	Condition	Recommendation	Budget	Priority
Mutual Aid	Mutual Aid agreements are in place with all local and neighboring emergency response agencies, and are updated annually. Once a strong working agreement, now has little strength at the federal level.	Maintain existing agreements with state federal, and local emergency response agencies. Provide funding for <u>advanced</u> wildland fire training for volunteer firefighters.	“	High
Unprotected Areas	Four (4) major open areas and many private homes scattered throughout Lincoln County are not included in a fire protection district and have no fire protection	Consider incorporating four (4) open areas into protection district, Create additional (new) protection district for Hidden Valley/Kimama area, Extend protection district boundaries to county line, Pursue mutual aid agreements	“	Mod
Code Enforcement	Existing subdivision regulations are in place but lack support. Many existing parcels predate existing regulations	Increased support, enforcement and streamlining of county codes are necessary. (See codes and discussion Appendix C)	“	High
Firewise	There exist a considerable amount of interest and need among Lincoln County residents for further education and training in making private homes and outbuildings fire safe.	Upon plan implementation provide necessary funding to initiate “public outreach program” to educate the public of the dangers of wildfire and encourage residents to take responsibility in reducing the risk of wildfire and create defensible space around their residence	Appendix D	High
High Fuel Loading	Decades of fire suppression and accumulation of flammable fuels has resulted in hazardous situations in many rural areas throughout Lincoln county.	Pursue agreements and funding for annual maintenance of Right of Way’s on major highways and county roads. (55miles) Appropriate adequate funding to reduce fuel buildup on 550 acres of private land	“	High
Implementation and Maintenance	Three (3) Risk Mitigation Plans were written for the counties FPD’s in 2001-2003. These approved plans sit on the shelf awaiting environmental clearance and funding appropriations.	Provide funding and implement Lincoln County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan immediately and ensure annual maintenance, and update every five years	“	High

Objective	Condition	Recommendation	Budget	Priority
Grants	All Lincoln County emergency response agencies expressed interest and desire to attend efficient grant writing training, to take advantage of available FEMA and Homeland Securities funding	Coordinate a group Grant Writing workshop, countywide, one central location, in the evening so volunteers may attend. Eligible categories for infrastructure acquisition included in Appendix E	“	High
FEMA Compliance	Local FEMA representation and Disaster Services, a refreshing, new entity for Lincoln County, with a multitude of service plans in various stages of development.	Upon approval, submit Lincoln County Wildfire Mitigation Plan to FEMA to document mitigation needs of Lincoln County. Support the development and maintenance of evacuation plans for subdivisions, farms, ranches recreational areas and cities in cooperation with disaster, emergency, and police agencies	“	High

6.0 Assessment of Fire Protection Districts

The Lincoln County assessment area includes three (3) fire protection districts (FPDs) covering an estimated 525,000 acres, and four (4) major open areas (Figure 3) with private homes and family farm operations which are not included within a fire protection district. (Table 8) shows each FPD and the landownership within each district. (Figure 1) also shows the location of each FPD within Lincoln County.

Table 8. Landownership of Lincoln County Fire Protection Districts

	BLM	Private	State	Total
Dietrich	37,500	25,660	1,920	65,080
Richfield	9,726	38,400	1,200	49,326
Shoshone	259,600	151,400	846	411,846
Total Acres	306,826	215,460	3,966	526,252
Open Areas	196,832	32,500	16,000	245,332

Fire occurrence is primarily from lightning, however, each district contains a moderately traveled east-west corridor, so railroad and roadside starts are common. Incidents are from both natural and human causes.

6.0a Suppression Equipment

The following equipment lists are by Fire Protection District. Each list includes only available, fully equipped equipment maintained and ready for emergency response.